

1945

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### Recommended Citation

Gath Soldat, Breta (1945) "Iowa State Students Prepare for Life," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 25 : No. 8 , Article 5.  
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol25/iss8/5>

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# Iowa State Students Prepare for Life

by Breta Gath Soldat

*CASE HISTORY: Nan and Jim fell in love their junior year of college and wanted to announce their engagement. Nan's mother opposed all suitors of her daughter, threatening to take Nan out of school if the engagement were announced. Nan and Jim tried to win the approval of Nan's mother in vain. They decided to announce their engagement anyway. Parental approval was given on the condition that the couple would wait a year after graduation to marry. Nan's mother objected again, but Nan and Jim planned the wedding. Realizing she had lost, Nan's mother helped put on a lovely wedding, and is now devoted to the couple, who are happily married and have a son two years old.*

THE marriage course Nan and Jim elected could aptly be called the turning point of their lives. A tragic ending could easily have developed if Nan had allowed her mother's attachment to her to banish Jim or any other husband for her. With so many obstacles to happiness, it would have been easy for Jim to have become discouraged, no matter how deep was his love for Nan.

Through the marriage course, however, they both learned to analyze their problems objectively and to realize that their problem could be worked out by reasoning and action. Strengthened in their resolution by the facts presented in the course, they faced this challenge and eventually achieved their happiness. Nan and Jim today are giving their son the benefit of a stable home life and responsible parents. They are keeping up their outside interests, their home and their reading so that the background they provide for their family will be a stimulating, enriching one.

HOME economics students at Iowa State are no longer content with merely learning the art of homemaking from the domestic angle. They realize now that the ability to cook a delicious, nutritious meal or to keep their homes running smoothly are not enough for a successful marriage. The comparatively new marriage courses, credit and non-credit, being offered here have been received with interest and enthusiasm.

Dr. Reuben Hill, author of the best-seller, "When You Marry," is teaching an Iowa State course called, "Sociology of the Family." It begins with the background of the modern family, tracing the recent development of the romantic impulse and analyzing the sentiment called love. Under discussion in the course are the process from dating into courtship; the functions of engagement in our society; marriage with the early marital adjustments; eventual parenthood, and the problem of divorce.

One of the most hotly debated subjects considered in the course is woman's position in our modern society. She is in transition from the philosophy that



*Dr. Hill's marriage course offers guidance in preparation for a successful marriage*

her place is strictly in the home to the belief that she is capable of combining stimulating outside activities with home making and rearing a family. With the invention of many labor-saving devices, many homemakers of today feel that they are not contributing their share to the welfare of her family unless they seek profitable activities outside the circle of the home. Therefore the trained home economist owes society the use of her professional training in broader fields than contributing her talents to a charming, well-managed home.

Students, nurtured on the Hollywood version of love, find the course's analysis of the subject highly illuminating. Romantic love, considered an abnormality in other societies, has only recently served as a basis for marriage in Europe and America. The termination of romance with marriage and its conversion into a conjugal affection creates in many married couples dissatisfaction and the feeling that their marriage has turned into a dull failure. It is hard for many people to realize that companionship, mutual interests, a high development of tenderness, a sense of belonging and security are more important to a happy married life than a constantly thrilling romance.

The subject of petting is closely tied up with the student's normal activities. The course offers common-sense arguments against petting as the wrong focus for dating, and discusses the relationship during engagements.

The popularity of this course has shown that students are definitely interested in learning more about marriage relationships and feel an actual need for guidance. Because Dr. Hill feels that the present three-hour course does not cover enough to meet all the needs of young people, a new five-hour course called *Marriage and the Family* with 55 sessions instead of 33 is under serious consideration. With this enlarged program, it will be possible to include guest speakers and to continue discussions that now have to be curtailed because of lack of time. Dr. Hill believes that this course will satisfy the demands of the students more fully and will answer many of their problems about marriage.